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EXAMINER

HA, LEYNNA A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2135

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/867,906

Applicant(s)

TAKECHI ET AL.

Examiner

LEYNNA T. HA

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 October 2005.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☒ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. **Claims 1-17 are pending. This is a Final rejection.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. **Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ramberg, et al. (US 6,857,013).**

As per claim 1:

discloses a GUI-equipped terminal apparatus which is connected to another terminal device through a network, and forms a distributed software environment, comprising:

GUI display means; [col.6, lines 61-62]

a virtual language environment which is a program execution environment in which a program code generated in a predetermined language can be executed independent of a specific type of apparatus; [col.5, lines 45-51 and col.10, lines 48-67]

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access limit confirmation means of operating in another execution environment different from said virtual language environment; and **[col.7, lines 27-53 and col.8, line 63 thru col.9, line 5]**

network I/F means, wherein:

said network I/F means exchanges information with another terminal device through the network; **[col.5, line 64 thru col.6, line 1]**

said GUI display means displays an application GUI at an instruction from an application executed in said virtual language environment, and displays an access limit confirmation GUI at an instruction from said access limit confirmation means; and **[col.8, lines 48-56]**

said access limit confirmation means receives an access confirmation message encrypted by another terminal device through said network I/F means, and transmits an encrypted access confirmation reply message to said other terminal device through said network I/F means. **[col.9, lines 57-63 and col.19, lines 19-31]**

As per claim 2:

discloses the GUI-equipped terminal apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising display means of displaying an image drawing signal output from said GUI display means on a monitor, wherein:

said GUI display means has an external output terminal; **[col.6, lines 61-62]**

said GUI display means displays the application GUI at an instruction from an application executed in said virtual language environment only on said display

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means or both said display means and said external output terminal; and [col.8, lines 48-56]

when an instruction from said access limit confirmation means is received, said access limit confirmation GUI is displayed only on said display means, and not on said external output terminal. [col.9, lines 44-48]

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 3-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Ramberg, et al. (US 6,857,013).

As per claim 3:

Ramberg discloses a resource control terminal apparatus which is connected to another terminal device through a network, and forms a distributed software environment, comprising:

a virtual language environment which is a program execution environment in which a program code generated in a predetermined language can be executed independent of a specific type of apparatus; **[col.5, lines 45-51 and col.10, lines 48-67]**

access limit search means of operating in another execution environment different from said virtual language environment; and **[col.10, lines 55-67]**
network I/F means, wherein:

said network I/F means exchanges information with said another terminal device through said network; **[col.5, line 64 thru col.6, line 1]**

said access limit search means receives and encrypts an access limit search request from an resource control program code executed in said virtual language environment **[col.9, lines 57-59]**, and transmits the access confirmation message to said other terminal device through said network I/F means, receives and decrypts an encrypted access confirmation reply message from said other terminal device through said network I/F means; and **[col.9, lines 27-30 and col.11, lines 21-38]**

said access limit search means answers said access limit search request from the resource control program code according to said decrypted access confirmation reply message. **[col.8, lines 62-66]**

Ramberg discloses security authentication and encoding the message content but did not discuss decrypting the message. It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to include a decryption process if an encryption process is involved in order to view the

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contents of the message.

As per claim 4:

Ramberg discloses the resource control terminal apparatus according to claim 3, wherein:

said access limit search means receives an access limit search request specifying an optional program ID from said resource control program code;

[col.8, lines 15-24 and col.9, lines 24-27]

said access limit search means retrieves said other terminal device in which a program having said program ID is being executed; **[col.8, lines 63-65]**

said access limit search means transmits said encrypted access confirmation message to said retrieved other terminal device through said network I/F means; **[col.5, line 64 thru col.6, line 1]**

said access limit search means receives an encrypted access confirmation reply message from said retrieved other terminal device through said network I/F means, and decrypts said encrypted access confirmation reply message; and **[col.9, lines 57-59]**

said access limit search means answers an access limit search request from said resource control program code according to said decrypted access confirmation reply message. **[col.8, lines 62-66]**

Ramberg discloses security authentication and encoding the message content but did not discuss the decrypting the message. It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to include a decryption process if an encryption process is involved.

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As per claim 5:

Ramberg discloses the resource control terminal apparatus according to claim 3, wherein:

said access limit search means receives an access limit search request specifying a profile ID from said resource control program code; **[col.17, lines 56-58]**

said access limit search means retrieves a terminal device having a permission right corresponding to said profile ID; **[col.8, lines 15-20 and col.9, lines 1-30]**

said access limit search means transmits an encrypted access confirmation message to a terminal device having said permission right through said network I/F means; **[col.8, lines 63-65]**

said access limit search means receives an encrypted access confirmation reply message from the terminal device having said permission right through said network I/F means, and decrypts said encrypted access confirmation reply message; and **[col.9, lines 57-59]**

said access limit search means answers an access limit search request from said resource control program code according to said decrypted access confirmation reply message. **[col.8, lines 62-66]**

Ramberg discloses security authentication and encoding the message content but did not discuss decrypting the message. It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to include a

decryption process if an encryption process is involved in order to view the contents of the message.

As per claim 6:

A network system, comprising:

at least one GUI-equipped terminal apparatus connected to a network;

and **[col.6, lines 62]**

at least one resource control terminal apparatus connected to said network, wherein:

said GUI-equipped terminal apparatus and said resource control terminal apparatus from a distributed software environment; **[col.4, lines 10-27]**

said GUI-equipped terminal apparatus comprises:

GUI display means; **[col.6, lines 62]**

a first virtual language environment which is a program execution environment in which a program code generated in a predetermined language can be executed independent of a specific type of apparatus; **[col.5, lines 45-51]**

access limit confirmation means of operating in another execution environment different from said first virtual language environment; and **[col.7, lines 46-49]**

first network I/F means, wherein:

said resource control terminal apparatus comprises:

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a second virtual language environment which is a program execution environment in which a program code generated in said predetermined language can be executed independent of a specific type of apparatus; **[col.5, lines 45-51]**

access limit search means of operating in another execution environment different from said second virtual language environment; and **[col.10, lines 55-63]**

second network I/F means, wherein:

said first network I/F means exchanges information with said resource control terminal apparatus through said network; **[col.5, lines 64-65]**

said second network I/F means exchanges information at least with said GUI-equipped terminal apparatus through said network; **[col.5, line 66]**

said access limit search means receives an access limit search request from a resource control program code executed in said second virtual language environment, and encrypts the request, and transmits said access confirmation message to said GUI-equipped terminal apparatus through said second network I/F means; **[col.7, lines 2-4 and col.10, lines 65-67]**

said access limit confirmation means receives said encrypted access confirmation message from said access limit search means through said first network I/F means, decrypts said access confirmation message, and outputs the decrypted message to said GUI display means; **[col.9, lines 57-59]**

said GUI display means displays an application GUI at an instruction from an application executed in said first virtual language environment, and displays

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an access limit confirmation GUI upon receipt of said access confirmation message from said access limit confirmation means; **[col.8, lines 23-25]**

said GUI display means outputs an input to said access limit confirmation GUI to said access limit confirmation means; **[col.8, lines 45-51]**

said access limit confirmation means generates an access confirmation reply message from said input and encrypts the message, said encrypted access confirmation reply message is transmitted to said resource control terminal apparatus through said first network I/F means; and **[col.9, lines 27-30 and col.11, lines 21-38]**

said access limit search means receives the encrypted access confirmation reply message from said GUI-equipped terminal apparatus through said second network I/F means, decrypts the message, and answers the access limit search request from said resource control program code according to said decrypted access confirmation reply message. **[col.8, lines 62-66]**

Ramberg discloses security authentication and encoding the message content but did not discuss decrypting the message. It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to include a decryption process if an encryption process is involved in order to view the contents of the message.

As per claim 7:

discloses the network system according to claim 6, wherein:

plurality of said GUI-equipped terminal apparatus is connected to a plurality of said networks; **[col.8, lines 52-56]**

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said resource control terminal apparatus broadcasts an access confirmation message to said GUI-equipped terminal apparatus; **[col.8, lines 22-25]**

when said GUI-equipped terminal apparatus is directly operated by a user, does not receive another access confirmation reply message in response to said access confirmation message from said other GUI-equipped terminal apparatus, and receives said access confirmation message transmitted from said resource control terminal apparatus, said GUI-equipped terminal apparatus transmits an access limit confirmation receipt message, performs a GUI display, confirms a request of the user, and broadcasts an access confirmation reply message. **[col.8, lines 3-26 and 62-64]**

As per claim 8:

discloses the network system according to claim 6 or 7, wherein:

said access confirmation message transmitted from said resource control terminal apparatus contains bit map data of a GUI image for a user selecting information about access limit requested from said application; **[col.6, lines 7-9]**

said access confirmation reply message transmitted from said GUI-equipped terminal apparatus contains coordinates of a position at which the user performs an action on said bit map data of said GUI image; **[col.6, lines 15-40]**

said resource control terminal apparatus confirms selection of a user for information about said access limit based on said coordinates of the position, and answers the access limit search request from said application based on said selection of the user. **[col.8, line 61 – col.9, line 3]**

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As per claim 9: See COL.8, lines 26-55 and col.9, lines 19-20; discussing the network system according to claim 8, wherein said resource control terminal apparatus changes a position or an expression of a GUI unit forming bit map data of a GUI image contained in said access confirmation message each time said resource control terminal apparatus transmits said access confirmation message.

As per claim 10: See col.8, lines 62-66 and col.11, lines 26-27; discussing the resource control terminal apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said resource control program code comprises the steps of: transmitting said access limit search request when an access request is received from another program; receiving a reply to said access limit search request; and determining according to said reply whether or not said access request can be accessed.

As per claim 11:

Ramberg discloses the resource control terminal apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said resource control program code comprises the steps of:

specifying a program ID indicating the other program to said access limit search means when an access request is received from the other program and transmitting said access limit search request; [col.8, lines 15-20 and col.9, lines 1-30]

receiving a reply to said access limit search request; and determining whether or not access at said access request can be accepted according to said reply. [col.8, lines 63-66]

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As per claim 12:

Ramberg discloses the resource control terminal apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said resource control program code comprises the steps of:

specifying said profile for said access limit search means when receiving an access request from another program; **[col.8, lines 15-20 and col.9, lines 1-30]**

transmitting said access limit search request; receiving a reply to said access limit search request; and **[col.7, lines 2-4 and col.9, lines 29-30]**

determining whether or not said access request can be accepted according to said reply. **[col.8, lines 15-20 and lines 63-66]**

As per claim 13:

Ramberg discloses the resource control terminal apparatus according to any one of claims 3 to 5, wherein said resource control program code comprises the steps of:

performing an access limit search request in a same procedure as an access confirmation request issued from a current program when receiving an access confirmation request from another program; and **[col.7, lines 2-4 and col.9, lines 29-30]**

determining whether or not the access confirmation request can be accepted according to a reply to the request. **[col.8, lines 15-20 and lines 63-66]**

As per claim 14: See col.6, lines 16-22 and 61-62; discussing a computer-processible medium storing a program and/or data used to direct a computer to

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perform all or a part of functions of all or a part of means of the resource control terminal apparatus or the GUI-equipped terminal apparatus.

As per claim 15: See col.6, lines 16-22 and 61-62; discussing an information aggregate which is a program and/or data used to direct a computer to perform all or a part of functions of all or a part of means of the resource control terminal apparatus or the GUI-equipped terminal apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 9.

As per claim 16: See col.6, lines 16-22 and 61-62; discussing a computer-processible medium storing the steps of all or a part of said resource control program code of said resource control terminal apparatus according to any one of claims 10 to 13.

As per claim 17:

In a users network including first and second terminals communicating with each other, in which the first terminal executes programs using a first virtual language and the second terminal executes programs using a second virtual language, and the second terminal controls access to a communications network, using a method of controlling access to the communications network comprising the steps of:

a) requesting, from the first terminal to the second terminal, access to the communications network; [col.8, lines 63-66]

(b) using an execution program, free-of the second virtual language, in the second terminal to determine if access is permissible to the requesting first terminal in step (a); [col.5, lines 45-51 and col.10, lines 48-67]

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(c) sending, from the second terminal to the first terminal, an encrypted access confirmation message **[col.9, lines 57-59]** to confirm the access request of step (a); **[col.7, lines 2-4 and col.9, lines 29-30]**

(d) using an execution program, free-of the first virtual language, in the first terminal to decrypt the encrypted access confirmation message sent in step (c) and confirm the access request of step (a);

Ramberg discloses security authentication and encoding the message content but did not discuss decrypting the message. It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to include a decryption process if an encryption process is involved in order to view the contents of the message.

(e) replying, from the first terminal to the second terminal, an encrypted reply message to the decrypting performed in step (d); and **[col.8, lines 20-25]**

(f) granting the first terminal access to the communications network, after successfully performing step (e). **[col.8, lines 63-66]**

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed October 21, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Access limitation can broadly interpret as having some kind of safeguard for access to an environment where the limitations does not further limit the kind or how much is considered the limit of an access to the environment. Hence, the following discussion concerns the access limitation means.

Ramberg discloses Java applets are used by the user to interface and SNMP to communicate with the ADC device platforms (col.5, lines 43-45). The SNMP is a network management protocol that servers maintains a set of management information such as statistics, status, and configuration values in a Management Information Base (MIB) (col.6, lines 45-54), and performs pack verification (col.7, lines 1-4). Thus, Ramberg discloses the plurality of ADC devices with the SNMP may each operate under a different communications protocol or system (col.7, lines 47-51) is the another execution environment that is different or outside from the Java and its application or applets (virtual language environment) used by web browsers on the World Wide Web.

Ramberg includes the MIB that provides management information for the SNMP devices and its ADC platforms where the MIB manages

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what is able to modify or view and having certain configuration, control and statistics data to limit access to the environment which is the ADC platform that is the access limitation means. Ramberg discusses the access limit confirmation means on COL.7, lines 32-36, having the ability to modify or view including configuration, control, and statistics data particular to the ADC platform. In addition, Ramberg includes security profiles that have different capabilities from ADC platforms to platforms (col.9, lines 1-5) and sockets that provide an identifier for a particular service on a particular node to govern the data packets and verification of the packets (col.9, lines 24-30).

Ramberg discloses the Java applets is in the form of virtual language environment that executes the GUI that operates from both the network controller and from a web browser (col.8, lines 52-56) wherein the web browser is the display means that inherently displays the application GUI.

Applicant states that the GUI display means locally displays both an application GUI, but fails to have this limitation in any of the independent claims. In addition, the claim language contradicts to applicant's argument.

Claim 1 states:

network I/F means, wherein:

said network I/F means exchanges information with another terminal device through the network;

said GUI display means displays an application GUI at an instruction from an application executed in said virtual language environment, and displays an access limit confirmation GUI at an instruction from said access limit confirmation means; and

said access limit confirmation means receives an access confirmation message encrypted by another terminal device through said network I/F means, and transmits an encrypted access confirmation reply message to said other terminal device through said network I/F means.

The claims indicates exchanging information with another terminal device through the network and further speaks of the GUI display means to display the access limit confirmation whereby receiving an access limit confirmation message encrypted by another terminal device through the network I/F means and transmitting the reply message to another terminal device through the network I/F means. Therefore, only communicating remotely is in the claimed invention and locally displaying is not claimed. In essence of the argument, Ramberg not only uses the GUI remotely but also locally (col.6, lines 61-63).

Ramberg discloses the access confirmation message to confirm the access request on COL.7, lines 2-4 and COL.9, lines 29-30.

Conclusion

5. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LEYNNA T. HA whose telephone number is (571) 272-3851. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday (7:00 - 5:00PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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